Glossary

Account Group: A template for establishing a runtime environment context for individual operators. Account groups are typically used to do a high level segregation of operators into system administrators, security administrators, database administrators, or mission specific operators.

Affected Account Group(s): The account group(s) to which a segment applies. Functionality provided by the installed segment will normally appear to the operator as new menu items or icons in the affected account group(s).

Aggregate Segment: A collection of segments grouped together, installed, deleted, and managed as a single unit.

Application Programmer Interface (API): A programmer's guide that describes the COE software libraries and services, and how to write software modules that interface with and use the COE services.

Approved Software: Software that has been tested as compatible with the COE. An approved products list might contain Oracle, Sybase, WordPerfect, Kermit, SEWC, NITES, etc. In this context, approved software implies only that the software has been tested and confirmed to work within the environment. It does *not* imply that the software has been approved or authorized by any government agency for any specific system.

Bootstrap COE: That subset of the COE that is loaded in order to have enough of an operational environment that segments can be loaded. The bootstrap COE is typically loaded along with the operating system through vendor supplied instructions or low level Unix commands such as `tar` and `cpio`.

Client: A computer program, such as a mission application, that requires a service. Clients are consumers of data while servers are producers of data.

Commercial Off-The-Shelf Software (COTS): Software that is available commercially. Examples include versions of Unix, X Windows, or Motif, as well as standard products such as Oracle, Sybase, and Informix.

Common Operating Environment (COE): The architecture, software infrastructure, core software, APIs, runtime environment definition, standards and guidelines, and methodology required to build a Command Information System. The COE allows segments created by separate developers to function together as an integrated system.

Community Files: Files that reside outside a segment's assigned directory. To prevent conflict among segments, community files may be modified only through the COE installation tools. Examples of community files include `/etc/passwd`, `/etc/hosts`, and `/etc/services`.

Compliance: A numeric value, called the compliance level, which measures the degree to which a segment conforms to the principles and requirements defined by COE standards, and the degree to which the segment makes use of COE services. Compliance is measured in four areas, called compliance categories. The four categories are Runtime Environment, Architectural Compatability, Style Guide, and Software Quality.

Component Database: Individual databases within a multi-database design.

Configuration Control Board (CCB): The organization responsible for authorizing enhancements, corrections, and revisions to the COE, or to a COE-based system.

Database: A structured set of data, managed by a DBMS, together with the rules for accessing the data.

Database Management System (DBMS): Software to manage concurrent access to shared databases.

Database Schema: The design of a particular database.

Descriptor Directory: The subdirectory `SegDescrip` associated with each segment. This subdirectory contains descriptors that provide information required to install the segment.

Descriptors: Data files (contained in the segment's descriptor directory) that are used to describe a segment to the COE. The software installation and integration process uses descriptor directories and their descriptor files to ensure COE compliance. Descriptor files permit automated integration and installation.

Development Environment: The software environment required to create, compile, and test software. This includes compilers, editors, linkers, debug software, and developer configuration preferences such as command aliases. The development environment is distinct from the runtime environment, and must be separated from the runtime environment, but is usually an extension of the runtime environment.

Distributed Database: A database whose data objects exist across multiple computer systems or sites.

Distributed Processing: The ability to perform collaborative processing across multiple computers. This capability allows processing load to be distributed.

Environment: In the context of the COE, all software that is running from the time the computer is rebooted to the time the system is ready to respond to operator queries after operator login. This software includes the operating system, security software, installation software, windowing environment, COE services etc. The environment is subdivided into a runtime environment and a software development environment.

Environment Extension File: A file that contains environmental extensions for the COE. Segments use extension files to add their own environment variables and other items to the COE.

Fragmentation Schema: The distribution design for a distributed database.

Government Off-The-Shelf (GOTS) Software: Software developed through funding by the US Government.

Kernel COE: That subset of the COE component segments which is required on all workstations. As a minimum, this consists of the operating system, windowing software, security, segment installation software, and an Executive Manager.

Mission Area Variant: A collection of segments which are relevant to a particular mission area (e.g., Analysis, Planning). A mission area variant is typically a list of workstation variants.

Multi-Database: A collection of autonomous databases.

Profile: The subset of the total COE-based functionality that is to be made available to a group of individual operators.

Remote Install: The ability to electronically install segments from a local site (such as the DISA Operational Support Facility) to a remote site (such as USACOM). In a "push" mode, the local site initiates and controls the segment installation. In a "pull" mode, the remote site initiates and controls the segment installation.

Runtime Environment: The runtime context determined by the applicable account group, the COE, and the executing segments.

Segment: A collection of one or more CSCIs (Computer Software Configuration Items) most conveniently managed as a unit. Segments are generally defined to

keep related CSCIs together so that functionality may be easily included or excluded in a variant.

Segment Prefix: A 1-6 alphanumeric character string assigned to each segment for use in naming public symbols.

Segment Servers: One or more designated workstations on a LAN which have segments stored on them in a format that can be used for installation on other workstations.

Server: A computer program that provides some service. Servers are producers of data while clients are consumers of data.

Service: A function that is common to a number of programs, such as performing some extensive calculation or retrieving a category of data.

Session: An individual connection between an application program and a database management system.

Site Variant: A collection of segments that are relevant to the mission needs of a specific site (e.g., CVN, TRANSCOM, CJTF). A site variant is typically a list of mission area variants.

Superset: The sum total collection of all COE-based segments available to the development community. The superset includes the COE as well as all mission application segments.

System Variant: A collection of segments that are relevant to a specific defined mission area (e.g., C4I, logistics, finance). GCCS and GCSS are two examples of a system variant. A system variant is typically a list of site variants.

Variant: A subset of the superset of all software. This subset includes the COE, and is fielded to service an operational mission area. A variant represents that collection of segments, including COE component segments, that are suitable for a particular site, mission area, or workstation. See also the definition of mission area, site, system, and workstation variants.

Workstation Variant: A collection of segments as installed and configured on a particular workstation.